

## Andrew Jackson to U. S. Senate, February 22, 1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Washington, February 22, 1831.

I submit herewith to congress a letter from Mr. Rhind, stating the circumstances under which he received the four Arabian horses, that were brought by him to the United States from Turkey. This letter will enable congress to decide what ought to be done with them.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Charles Rhind had recently returned from Constantinople, where he had negotiated a treaty with the Sultan's government. In a letter which he wrote to Jackson Dec. 10, 1830, he said that after completing the treaty he had many conferences with the Sultan and his advisers, and was able to suggest many improvements to the Turks, useful to them in various phases of their lives; and thus he won their good-will. In order to express his gratitude the Sultan sent him four Arabian horses as a gift. Knowing that he was not allowed, as a diplomatic agent, to receive them as a personal gift, he had hesitated to accept them. But his friends in Constantinople warned him that to refuse them would be an insult to the Sultan and would endanger the ratification of the treaty. The horses were therefore in the United States, and it was for the President to say what should be done with them. Jackson's presentation of the case to Congress was followed by a refusal to take the horses, and in May, 1831, they were sold at Tattersalls, N. Y., at auction, bringing \$1990, not enough to pay for their transportation and keep. *Niles' Register*, XL. 70, 196, 283; Richardson, II. 536.